This document contains released items from the 2010 and 2011 Grade 9 Knowledge and Employability Science Achievement Tests.

A test blueprint and an answer key that includes the difficulty, reporting category, curricular content area, and item description for each test item are also included. These materials, along with the program of studies and subject bulletin, provide information that can be used to inform instructional practice.

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2010 and 2011 Achievement Test Released Items

The items presented in this document are from the secured 2010 and 2011 Grade 9 Knowledge and Employability Science Achievement Tests. These items are released by Alberta Education.

Grade 9 Knowledge and Employability Science Achievement Test

Released Items 2010 and 2011
1. In the food web above, which of the following animals would be directly affected by a decrease in the amount of grass available?

   A. Caribou
   B. Wolf
   C. Owl
   D. Fox

2. Eye colour is an example of

   A. a heritable trait
   B. a non-heritable trait
   C. a physical adaptation
   D. an environmental adaptation
Use the following information to answer question 3.

Gardeners often use pesticides to control populations of bugs that harm their plants.

3. Instead of using pesticides, a gardener could

   A. provide the plants with more light
   B. provide the plants with more water
   C. place natural predators of the bugs on the plants
   D. grow the plants indoors where the bugs cannot survive

Use the following information to answer question 4.

Strawberry plants grow runners. New plants are produced along the runners.

4. The information above describes

   A. asexual reproduction
   B. sexual reproduction
   C. artificial selection
   D. natural selection
5. Overfishing of both large and small fish by humans in the food web above would directly result in

A. greater plant diversity
B. a reduced food supply for eagles
C. greater life expectancy for ducks
D. a reduced amount of dead animals and plants
A student forgets to put a title on her poster. The poster consists of the following facts:

- Using road salt reduces ice and makes driving safer.
- When road salt melts the ice on roads, the road salt is absorbed into the ground and enters ponds and rivers in the spring.
- Road salt is toxic to vegetation and aquatic organisms.

6. Which of the following poster titles would best represent all of the information in the poster?

A. The Good and Bad Effects of Using Road Salt  
B. Road Salt! An Environmental Nightmare!  
C. Ponds and Rivers Don’t Need Road Salt!  
D. Road Salt Saves Lives

7. Which of the following questions is not directly answered by the information above?

A. How does the salt affect the environment?  
B. Which organisms are harmed by salt?  
C. Does salt reduce ice on roads?  
D. Will salt harm human beings?

8. The common name of this compound is

A. salt  
B. bleach  
C. baking soda  
D. white vinegar
9. Which of the following statements describes the present model of the atom?
   A. Protons and electrons are arranged together in an alternating pattern.
   B. Protons and electrons are arranged together in a random pattern.
   C. A nucleus of protons and neutrons is surrounded by electrons.
   D. A nucleus of electrons and neutrons is surrounded by protons.

Use the following information to answer question 10.

A solution is tested with blue litmus paper. The blue litmus paper changes to red.

10. Which of the following conclusions can be drawn?
   A. The pH is 6.5.
   B. The pH is 7.5.
   C. The solution is basic.
   D. The solution is acidic.

11. Which food group helps build healthy teeth and bones?
   A. Grain products
   B. Vegetables and fruit
   C. Milk and alternatives
   D. Meat and alternatives
Use the following information to answer question 12.

Kim prepares a meal with the following foods:

- Spaghetti and meatballs
- Tossed salad
- Garlic toast

12. In order to complete the meal so that it contains **all four** food groups from Canada’s Food Guide to Healthy Eating, Kim should serve

A. chocolate cake  
B. orange juice  
C. milk  
D. corn
Use the following information to answer question 13.

Water Requirements for Rainbow Trout Survival

- pH from 6.7 to 8.0
- Water appearance must be clear
- Water temperature of 17 °C or lower

Measurements were taken at four different ponds to determine which pond would be most suitable for rainbow trout. The results are shown in the chart below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pond Number</th>
<th>pH</th>
<th>Water Appearance</th>
<th>Water Temperature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>Clear</td>
<td>18 °C to 20 °C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>Murky</td>
<td>12 °C to 25 °C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>Clear</td>
<td>3 °C to 13 °C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>Murky</td>
<td>1 °C to 16 °C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

13. Which pond would be most suitable for rainbow trout?

A. Pond 1  
B. Pond 2  
C. Pond 3  
D. Pond 4
Use the following information to answer question 14.

**Some Environmentally Friendly Actions**

1. Using compost in a garden
2. Buying a second-hand lawn mower
3. Turning used paper into roofing shingles
4. Buying products with the least amount of packaging
5. Buying one 4 L container of juice instead of eight 500 mL containers

14. The 3Rs are reduce, reuse, and recycle. Which two of the actions listed above are the best examples of reducing?

   A. 1 and 2  
   B. 2 and 3  
   C. 3 and 4  
   D. 4 and 5

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Use the following information to answer question 15.

Circuit A has thicker wires than circuit B.

15. The light bulb in circuit A will burn brighter than the light bulb in circuit B because as resistance decreases,

   A. voltage decreases  
   B. voltage increases  
   C. current decreases  
   D. current increases
Use the following information to answer question 16.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of electrical energy</th>
<th>Percentage of energy that can be converted to electricity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coal</td>
<td>22.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wind</td>
<td>30.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uranium</td>
<td>20.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural gas</td>
<td>20.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

16. Based on the information in the chart above, which source is the **most** energy efficient?

A. Natural gas
B. Uranium
C. Wind
D. Coal
Use the following diagrams to answer question 17.

17. Which of the diagrams above represents a safe electrical practice?

A. I  
B. II  
C. III  
D. IV  

18. The length of an Earth year is the time it takes for
   A. Earth to revolve around the sun
   B. the sun to revolve around Earth
   C. Earth to revolve around the moon
   D. the moon to revolve around Earth

19. The sun is an example of
   A. a star
   B. a comet
   C. a planet
   D. an asteroid

Use the following information to answer question 20

Four positions of the Moon as it orbits Earth are shown.

20. Which position in the diagram represents a full moon viewed from Earth?
   A. Position W
   B. Position X
   C. Position Y
   D. Position Z
A student found the following information while completing a research assignment.

- Robots can perform tasks that human beings cannot.
- Human beings can make observations that robots cannot.
- Sending human beings into space is more expensive than sending robots, and takes money away from other projects.
- Sending human beings into space puts their lives at risk, but sending robots does not.

21. Which of the following statements is supported by the information above?

A. Using robots in space is both risky and expensive.
B. Using human beings in space is both risky and expensive.
C. Human beings make more accurate measurements than robots.
D. Robots make more accurate measurements than human beings.
The year 2020 is the target date for the creation of a base on the Moon. Here are four speakers’ questions related to the creation of a Moon base.

22. Which speaker’s question reflects an environmental perspective?

A. Speaker I  
B. Speaker II  
C. Speaker III  
D. Speaker IV
The following blueprint shows the reporting categories by which these questions were classified on the 2010 and 2011 Grade 9 Knowledge and Employability Science Achievement Tests.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Outcomes</th>
<th>Reporting Category</th>
<th>Number (Percentage) of Questions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Knowledge</td>
<td>Skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Biological Diversity</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Matter and Chemical Change</strong></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Environmental Chemistry</strong></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Electrical Principles and Technologies</strong></td>
<td>17</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Space Exploration</strong></td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Number (Percentage) of Questions**
The table below provides information about each question: the keyed response, the difficulty of the item (the percentage of students who answered the question correctly), the reporting category, the topic, and the item description.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Key</th>
<th>Difficulty %</th>
<th>Reporting Category</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Item Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>61.6%</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>BD</td>
<td>Evaluate information to identify a relationship based on a given food web.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>80.7%</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>BD</td>
<td>Identify an example of a characteristic that can be inherited.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>60.4%</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>BD</td>
<td>Identify the impact of human actions on a given population to determine an alternative action.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>54.9%</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>BD</td>
<td>Identify an example of asexual reproduction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>57.1%</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>BD</td>
<td>Analyze information to draw a conclusion related to the impact of human actions on a given food web.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>76.8%</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>MCC</td>
<td>Analyze information to draw a conclusion that best represents the information given on an environmental issue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>50.2%</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>MCC</td>
<td>Analyze information to determine what question is not addressed on a poster related to an environmental issue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>38.4%</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>MCC</td>
<td>Identify a product in a simple chemical reaction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>47.8%</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>MCC</td>
<td>Identify and recall the structure of an atom.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>55.6%</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>MCC</td>
<td>Identify a solution as acidic based on test results with litmus paper.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>89.1%</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>MCC</td>
<td>Identify a given food group related to Canada’s Food Guide to Healthy Eating.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>70.0%</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>EC</td>
<td>Identify a food necessary to balance a given meal according to the Canada Food Guide.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>63.2%</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>EC</td>
<td>Analyze information to draw a conclusion related to pH and water quality and its impact on living things.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Question</td>
<td>Key</td>
<td>Difficulty %</td>
<td>Reporting Category</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Item Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>49.5%</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>EC</td>
<td>Identify a favorable environmental practice of consumers based on information related to the issue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>38.6%</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>EPT</td>
<td>Integrate information to describe the relationship between current flow and resistance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>71.0%</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>EPT</td>
<td>Analyze information in a chart to determine the most energy-efficient resource given.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>67.8%</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>EPT</td>
<td>Distinguish a safe electrical practice from a given set of diagrams.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>66.4%</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>SE</td>
<td>Recall and identify the motion of the Earth in space relative to an Earth year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>80.6%</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>SE</td>
<td>Recall and identify an example of a given celestial body.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>45.8%</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>SE</td>
<td>Analyze information in a diagram to identify the positioning and motion of objects in space.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>53.5%</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>SE</td>
<td>Analyze information to draw a conclusion related to research information about a given (space-related) problem.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>72.4%</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>SE</td>
<td>Interpret information to determine an environmental perspective related to space exploration.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>